AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A picture coding method for transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, which method uses motion estimation coding and divides the picture into a plurality of segments made up of macroblocks, wherein, at least for an edge block of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, for an edge macroblock of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent macroblock of the adjacent segment.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the top edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, for motion vector estimation, the picture is scanned from left to right and from top to bottom and, for macroblocks adjacent the right-hand edge of a segment, a motion estimation vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.

5. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein each segment is made up of two groups of blocks.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the error rate i s greater than 10_{-6}, or even greater than 10_{-4}.

7. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission rate is less than 100 kbit/s.

8. (original): A coder implementing the method of claim 1.

9. (original): A transmission system using a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, the system including a coder according to claim 8.

10. (new): A picture coding method for transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a high error rate, the method comprising:

performing motion estimation coding on transmitted data of a picture;

dividing the picture into a plurality of segments each segment comprising one or more macroblocks,

wherein, at least for an edge block of a corresponding segment of the picture, a respective motion estimation vector is permitted to extend into an adjacent segment.

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11. (new): A picture coding method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said performing

motion estimation coding comprises estimating all motion vectors except for the edge block of

the corresponding segment inside the segment.

12. (new): picture coding method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said performing

motion estimation coding and said dividing the picture into a plurality of segments are performed

in accordance with ITU standard H.263+.

13. (new): picture coding method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said performing

motion estimation coding and said dividing the picture into a plurality of segments are performed

in accordance with ITU standard H.263+.